FS-002 Public Garden-Beyond Aesthetics

Cantigny Park - Craig Kruckenberg, ASLA

History
Robert R. McCormick was the long time editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. He built the Tribune Company from a single newspaper to a media giant. McCormick was citizen-soldier, serving in the Illinois National Guard in 1915, and as a Colonel in the First Infantry Division during World War I. He was a role model for active citizen engagement, deeply committed to First Amendment rights, particularly freedom of speech, and to the city of Chicago.

The Colonel
As a teenager, Robert R. McCormick visited Red Oaks Farm, owned by his grandfather Joseph Medill, in suburban Wheaton, IL. McCormick inherited the grand estate, renaming it “Cantigny” to commemorate his experience during the Battle of Cantigny, France; the first American victory of World War I. McCormick, then a major, commanded the 5th Field Artillery of the American Expeditionary Force. On September 5, 1918, he was promoted to Colonel of the First Infantry Division’s 61st Field Artillery. He established the Robert R. McCormick Foundation upon his death in 1955.

The McCormick Foundation
The McCormick Foundation is committed to fostering communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens. Our focus areas include journalism and the First Amendment, early childhood education, youth civic engagement, assistance for disadvantaged communities, and serving veterans. A big part of our mission is sustaining Col. McCormick’s former estate at Cantigny Park, which he left in trust for the people of Chicago as a public space for education and recreation. Cantigny enriches our community every day and is enjoyed by more than 360,000 visitors each year.

Cantigny Park
Cantigny Park opened in 1958. It is the 500-acre Wheaton estate of Col. Robert R. McCormick and is home to:

- **The Robert R. McCormick Museum**, a historic house museum
- **The First Division Museum**, dedicated to 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army
- **Cantigny Gardens**, The gardens opened in 1967, design work from Root & Hollister (1930’s) and Franz Lipp (1960’s).
- **Cantigny Golf**, designed by Roger Packard and opened for play in 1989
The Gardens
During the early 1930s, Colonel Robert R. McCormick’s estate held an experimental farm on-site, which served as a working “laboratory” with the goal of serving the family farms that blanketed the countryside. The experimental farm tried new species of crop plants, tested theories of planting and harvesting, and investigated new practices in raising productive farm animals. Other experimental farms existed across the nation.

To educate and share the accomplishments of experimental farms, McCormick's Chicago Tribune ran a weekly column entitled “Day by Day Stories of the Experimental Farms.” These trusted reports helped shape the future of the Midwest as a leader in agriculture.

After McCormick’s death in 1955, the Board of Directors decided to change Cantigny’s focus from agriculture to horticulture by hiring famed landscape architect Franz Lipp to design and build a world class garden. In 1967, Lipp began construction of this lush, horticultural masterpiece, which is one of the largest display gardens in the Midwest with more than 160,000 annuals, perennials, ground covers, and flowering shrubs and trees.

The nearly 30 acres of gardens at Cantigny include the Formal Gardens, Rose Garden, Prairie Garden and Idea Garden. A majority of the plants seen throughout are estate-grown inside Cantigny’s renowned greenhouse. Guests are encouraged to visit the gardens throughout the year to witness the changing beauty of their seasonal displays.
Cantigny Park Landscape Plan
In the summer of 2014, Cantigny Park retained Sasaki Associates Inc. of Watertown, Massachusetts to work with the Cantigny leadership to develop a landscape plan for the Cantigny Park property in Wheaton, Illinois. Noted garden designer and landscape architect, Herb Schaal, has also been engaged as a planning advisor. The planning study area includes the 140 acre Cantigny Park, not including Cantigny Golf.

The Planning Need
There are several reasons that the Cantigny Park Landscape Plan has been undertaken.

- **Garden Restoration:** There is a need to restore and renovate the Cantigny gardens and landscape. Most of the display gardens were designed and installed the 1960's and 70's and require renewal of paths, walls, drainage, edging and planting.

- **Campus Unity:** There is a need to improve the unity of the gardens, the Robert McCormick Museum, and the First Division Museum so that the campus reads as a whole.

- **Visitor Way-finding:** There is a need to improve circulation patterns for visitors. The intended sequence of visitor arrival and the role of the Visitor Center are not always clear; directional signage is inconsistent; navigation to the Museums is not clear; accessibility is lacking in some areas; and the general pattern of paths is not conducive to easy, intuitive visitor way-finding.

- **Visitor Experience:** There is a need to provide facilities to encourage and more effectively serve increased attendance. Improved parking, restrooms and event facilities are needed to better accommodate the public.

Proposed Circulation and Wayfinding
Front Entrance Project

In the fall of 2013, Cantigny Park began the renovation of a new main entrance to the park along Winfield Road. Cantigny’s old entrance was not designed to accommodate the park’s current annual visitation, driven by special events and permanent attractions. The project was all about creating a better guest experience by creating a wider entrance with new turn lanes to improve traffic flow and eliminate bottlenecks as well as improved lighting for visibility and safety.

Because of the increase of impervious surfaces, DuPage County requirements dictated the need to create additional stormwater management area. Using stormwater management BMP’s, Cantigny staff worked with Roy Diblik, of Northwind Perennial Farm to create an attractive sedge meadow basin that is lower maintenance, durable and attractive.

Sedge Meadow Design Concept
The sedge meadow has a nice uniform flow beginning with the Sporobolus/ Carex blend on the top of the slope, moving through the lower planting relating to the Carex molesta and tenera then drifting into the Carex stricta planting accented by the Carex comosa and Carex bebbii on the bottom

- 1/3 Acre Planted in Zones, by elevation and water requirement
  - Uniform look desired
- Total of 10,400 carex and grasses, and 552 forbs,
  - In 2.5” plug size
  - Spaced approx. 14” o. c.
- Maintenance –
  - To be mowed in early spring or burned
  - 3 seasons for maturity
  - No mulching will be needed

Carex grisea w/ Carex molesta
The Morton Arboretum - Susan LB Jacobson, FASLA

History

The Morton Arboretum was formally established on December 14, 1922, by Mr. Joy Morton (1855-1934), founder of Morton Salt Company and other enterprises in banking, railroads, and agriculture. The actual work of transforming his Thornhill estate at Lisle into an arboretum began early in 1921 when Joy was 65. At the time, he wrote to his son, "I want something to develop during the balance of my life on ground for which I have a personal affection, and I hope the work may prolong my life." In his remaining thirteen years he commuted daily to his business office in Chicago and oversaw significant progress in the development of The Morton Arboretum.

Joy was the eldest of four sons of Julius Sterling Morton (1832-1902), founder of Arbor Day (1872) and Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland. His mother Caroline (née Joy, 1834-1881) loved gardening, and Joy inherited both parents’ interests in trees and horticulture. J. Sterling Morton established “Plant Trees” as the family motto. Arbor Lodge, the family home in Nebraska City, Nebraska, is now a state park. In 1876 Joy and his father visited the newly established Arnold Arboretum while in Boston for the U.S. Centennial.

1922 Site Plan by O.C. Simonds

When starting The Morton Arboretum in 1921, Joy sought the advice of Dr. Charles Sprague Sargent, whom he had known for nearly for 50 years. Sargent visited Lisle several times and became a significant influence in shaping The Morton Arboretum. He suggested important European gardens for the Morton's to visit; hired and trained key personnel; recommended landscape architect Ossian Cole Simonds (1855-1931); promoted the early establishment of an herbarium and library; donated herbarium specimens, books, and living plants; purchased important books through European dealers; edited the statement of purpose; and offered general advice and encouragement.

When Joy died in 1934, the Arboretum consisted of 735 acres with two lakes (Marmo, named for his wife Margaret Morton; and Jopamaca, named for himself and his brothers Paul, Mark, and Carl). It was operated out of renovated farm buildings and had a general landscape plan, many plantings and nurseries, an extensive system of roads and paths, and a small but excellent staff of professionals and outdoor workers.
Mission
The Morton Arboretum is an outdoor museum with a mission to collect and study trees, shrubs, and other plants from around the world, to display them across naturally beautiful landscapes for people to study and enjoy, and to learn how to grow them in ways that enhance our environment.

Our goal is to encourage the planting and conservation of trees and other plants for a greener, healthier, and more beautiful world. The Arboretum ranks among the leading arboretums of the world in size, age, quality of specimens, and programs in Plant Collections, Research, and Education. Our collections include 222,000 plant specimens, representing 4,300 different kinds of plants. Situated on the rolling Valparaiso moraine and bisected by the East Branch of the DuPage River, the Arboretum is planned and planted to nurture and display trees and shrubs in environments conducive to their growth. Arranged by geographic, taxonomic and other groupings, the collections are enhanced by restored natural areas of native plants. The Arboretum has grown to include 1,700 acres of plant collections and gardens amid spectacular natural landscapes of woodlands, prairie, lakes, and streams.

The Research Program focuses on practical scientific studies; key areas include tree health, tree improvement, and woodland conservation. Housed in the state-of-the-art Research Center is a Herbarium of 194,000 specimens for botanical research. The Regional Trees Initiative develops strategies for tree and urban forest improvement in the greater Chicago area; the Community Trees program advocates for trees in 274 communities in the seven counties. Science and conservation initiatives address international needs to build partnerships and save endangered trees.
Children’s Garden

Opening in 2005, the award-winning Children’s Garden is a destination that engages visitors with tree-centric nature play. The 4 acre Children’s Garden was designed for the learning stages and development of children ages 2–10 and their caregivers. However, visitors of all ages enjoy the Children’s Garden.

Our focus on trees and the diversity of woody plant species represented make the Children’s Garden unique. As an institution that is dedicated to science and conservation, we want to share that passion with those who hold our future in their hands. The Children’s Garden is also a highlight of display horticulture at the Arboretum, with exciting, colorful, and seasonally varied plantings.

An Arboretum team guided and advised throughout the concept, design and implementation phases. Landscape Architect Herb Schaal, who is well known for his children’s gardens, was the primary designer. Hitchcock Design Group, a local landscape architecture firm, created schematic concepts, led design development, and produced construction documentation. It took five years from the beginning of planning to the opening of the Garden. The first two years were concept development and planning, followed by three years to construct the Garden. The garden hosts over 400,000 visitors each year.
Sustainable Sites Pilot Project
Meadow Lake/Main Parking Lot at The Morton Arboretum was one of eight pilot projects newly certified by the Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™) for its sustainable site design, construction and maintenance. This project is also a Landscape Performance Series Case Study Investigation.

These two projects comprise 27 acres of The Morton Arboretum 1700 acres. The Meadow Lake restoration took a poor quality man-made retention lake with eroded banks and created a re-shaped and re-graded lake with water fluctuation measures, 10’ wide geo-web installed at the normal water level, soil amendments and over 68,000 plants to create a wetland planting around the entire lake. The Main Parking Lot project is adjacent to Meadow Lake and incorporates best management practices for managing storm water and nonpoint source water pollution. The surface is a permeable concrete paver system. Below the pavers is a 4 ft. gravel bed that stores storm-water and slows its progress through the watershed. Water is also collected in bio-swales in the parking lot. Plants within the bio-swales filter contaminants in the water biologically, assisted by mechanical filtering on the gravel bed under the parking lot. The cleaner, slower moving water enters Meadow Lake and eventually the East Branch of the DuPage River. A $1.2 million EPA grant provided partial support for this construction project.

Both Meadow Lake and the Main Parking Lot are showcased in our main visitor area and provide an educational opportunity to all who visit. The parking lot has interpretive panels explaining the storm water benefits and Meadow Lake has a paved accessible walkway around it with benches, interpretive signage and plant display labels. The plantings were selected for the appropriate moisture gradient, and provide submergent, emergent and wet mesic plant zones. The planting plan shows interlocking drifts of 1 to 4 species with combinations to provide color and texture throughout the growing season. The Phase II lake monitoring was begun in 2005 and comparisons have been made to the pre-construction Phase I data. The data supports the intended purpose of this project to greatly improve water quality.

Among the specific sustainable design benchmarks met by Meadow Lake/Main Parking Lot were:
1- The project had the first large scale, high profile permeable paver installation in the Midwest
2- The project had some of the first bio-swales used in the Midwest
3- One of the first projects to implement extensive wetland plantings around the stormwater management feature (for bio-filtration, native habitat, wetland restoration)
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Learning Objectives

1. Learn how the historic Robert R. McCormick estate was transitioned into a 29 acre public display garden and museum campus for education and recreation. Understand goals of the new master plan.

2. Learn about natural area and stormwater management solutions used with sedge meadow detention area at new entrance and the scope and scale of the greenhouses and experimental agriculture.

3. Learn about the first large scale permeable parking lot with bio swales and man made wetlands stormwater solution. Sustainable Sites Pilot Project and LAF, Case Study Investigation project for 2014.

4. Learn about the design and management practices of 1700 acres of public garden space divided into three types of horticulture: natural areas, collections and display horticulture.